Opening of post offices in Gujarat

†3826. SHRI BACHANI LEKHRAJ : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have fixed any criteria for opening of post offices;

(b) whether it is a fact that post offices could not be opened in Gujarat until now as per the criteria fixed by Government;

(c) whether Government propose to open few post offices in Gujarat during the current year; and

(d) if so, the names of places where these post offices are proposed to be opened together with their number and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The opening of post offices is subject to the proposals conforming to prescribed norms. Further it depends upon availability of funds and sanctioning of required posts by Ministry of Finance. The targets for opening of new post offices in Gujarat during the current year are yet to be fixed.

Conversion of telephone exchanges into electronic exchanges in Gujarat

†3827 SHRI BACHANI LEKHRAJ : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the names of telephone exchanges in Gujarat that are yet to be converted into electronic ones;

(b) whether Government propose to convert them in near future; and

(c) if so, by when and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) All Telephone Exchanges working in Gujarat Telecom Circle are Electronic.

(b) and (c) Do not arise in view of (a) above.

Alarm system for misuse of ISD/STD

†3828. SHRI SWARAJ KAUSHAL : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have formulated any scheme for developing 'alarm system' to prevent the misuse of I.S.D. and S.T.D. in the country;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.